

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 22 and 26 as follows:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A vacuum processing apparatus comprising:

a floor panel;

a fixing block provided on the floor panel;

a vacuum chamber provided on the floor panel;

a couple of vacuum pumps provided on the floor panel;

a pipe connecting the ~~vacuum~~ vacuum chamber to each of the vacuum pumps for evacuating the vacuum chamber;

a flexible pipe included in a part of the pipe;

an inlet pipe included in a part of the pipe for connecting the flexible pipe to each of the corresponding vacuum pumps; and

a vibration transmission suppressing mechanism for maintaining a distance between the inlet pipe and the fixing block in an extending direction of the flexible pipe so as not to shrink the flexible pipe at a ~~lifetime~~ lifetime of evacuation, wherein:

each of the vacuum pumps are provided in parallel with each other with a gap therebetween, and

the vibration transmission suppressing mechanism is provided between the vacuum pumps.

23. (Previously Presented) The vacuum processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:

the inlet pipe is provided on a top part of each of the corresponding vacuum pumps.

24. (Previously Presented) The vacuum processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:

the vibration transmission suppressing mechanism, which is extended parallel to each of the inlet pipes, includes a quadrangular bar fixed to each of a rising portion of the inlet pipes and a chain block fixed to a central part of the quadrangular bar and the fixing block.

25. (Previously Presented) The vacuum processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein:

the chain block is provided between the vacuum pumps.

26. (Currently Amended) The vacuum processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein:

the inlet pipe is provided on a vacuum chamber-side of a top part of each of the corresponding vacuum pumps, and

the fixing block is provided between the vacuum pumps and Θ<sub>80n</sub> on an opposite side with respect to the vacuum chamber.